

Message

From: Chesnutt, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E1CD369E94474C2C8A876FB16943320A-JCHESNUT]
Sent: 10/7/2020 8:24:20 PM
To: Huang, Judy [Huang.Judy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

I think it was fine the way it was, but apparently they don't. Let's see what they say

From: Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

FYI.
Hope I didn't over step....

J

From: Huang, Judy
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>; Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Hi Soledad:

I added the red text.
If you think this makes the sentence too long, we can also turn this into a standalone sentence.
I am not sure about shortening the response.
It evolved to this length to address ORC's concerns.

J

Draft response:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Hi Fatima and Judy,

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Can you help me out? I'd like to send an updated response to John/Marie and ORC instead of having them edit it again, to try to make it easier on them. Thank you!

- **Would the EPA/the Montrose team like to respond to the frustrations that some stakeholders have expressed on how long the process has been taking to reach a final cleanup remedy?** (For example, on page 72 of the recent 5-year review, Mark Gold wrote to Judy and team that while education outreach and some good restoration projects have happened in the past 25 years, he was frustrated that no meaningful remediation/mitigation has occurred: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100018339.pdf>) I understand this has been an extremely complicated Superfund project and would appreciate any insight or response you could provide on these concerns from the public.

Ex. 5 AC/AWP

Soledad Calvino
Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9
calvino.maria@epa.gov
Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>
Cc: Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>; Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>; Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

I think that sounds perfect. Thanks all.

From: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>
Cc: Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>; Zhang, Xiao

<Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>; Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Ex. 5 AC/AWP

From: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:23 PM

To: Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>; Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>

Cc: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Ex. 5 AC/AWP

From: Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:02 PM

To: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>; Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>

Cc: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Hi Marie:

Thank you for the reminder.

Attached is the draft response to the LA Times reporter.

This has gone through John C's review.

I will send it to Soledad after I receive your concurrence.

Judy

From: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>
Cc: Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Judy, it goes without saying, but please run this by Xiao, Thomas, and me before sending it to Soledad. Thank you.

From: Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>; Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>; Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Manheimer, Kelly <manheimer.kelly@epa.gov>; Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>
Cc: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Soledad:

I am working on a response for the Reporter's question re: PV Shelf delay.

I will send it to you after I get John C.'s concurrence.

J

From: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 2:05 PM
To: Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>; Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>; Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Manheimer, Kelly <manheimer.kelly@epa.gov>; Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>
Cc: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Hi all,

Yes, I think she's just trying to figure out if Montrose still exists as a company or if it has been sold/absorbed by any other companies.

I know we just announced a settlement back in August with Montrose Chemical Corporation of California, Bayer CropScience, Inc., TFCF America, Inc., Stauffer Management Company LLC, and JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. for further cleanup work of contaminated groundwater at the Dual Site. **Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)**

I think what she's trying to get at is

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Also, I just got another follow up question on the PVS responses we sent her earlier this morning:

- **Would the EPA/the Montrose team like to respond to the frustrations that some stakeholders have expressed on how long the process has been taking to reach a final cleanup remedy?** (For example, on page 72 of the recent 5-year review, Mark Gold wrote to Judy and team that while education outreach and some good restoration projects have happened in the past 25 years, he was frustrated that no meaningful remediation/mitigation has occurred: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100018339.pdf>) I understand this has been an extremely complicated Superfund project and would appreciate any insight or response you could provide on these concerns from the public.

Soledad Calvino

Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9

calvino.maria@epa.gov

Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:46 PM

To: Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>; Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Manheimer, Kelly <manheimer.kelly@epa.gov>; Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>; Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>

Cc: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Ex. 5 AC/AWP

From: Zhang, Xiao

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:33 PM

To: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Manheimer, Kelly <manheimer.kelly@epa.gov>; Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>; Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>

Cc: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Ex. 5 AC/AWP

From: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 12:59 PM

To: Manheimer, Kelly <manheimer.kelly@epa.gov>; Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>; Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>

Cc: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Ex. 5 AC/AWP

From: Manheimer, Kelly <manheimer.kelly@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 12:43 PM

To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>; Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>

Cc: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Zhang, Xiao <Zhang.Xiao@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

I think the first question on the ocean dumping would be relevant to Judy and Angeles, and up to them on whether they want to comment/address it or not.

Xiao: do we have any canned language on the status of Montrose as a company?

Regards,

Kelly Manheimer

Section Manager, CA Sites II

EPA Region 9 Superfund

415-972-3290



From: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 12:36 PM

To: Ty, Fatima <Ty.Fatima@epa.gov>; Manheimer, Kelly <manheimer.kelly@epa.gov>

Cc: Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: LA Times follow up questions Montrose + PVS

Hi Fatima and Kelly,

I just spoke with the LA Times reporter and she sent me the questions below. She tried contacting John initially because Mark Gold mentioned that John was involved with Montrose as an attorney back in the day. She's still interested in the ocean dumping aspect of the story, and doesn't really have questions on the Montrose groundwater site per se.

I'm not sure if anyone is familiar with the UC Santa Barbara study that she's citing, but please take a look. Since this is not really part of the superfund site, I'm not sure to what extent we could comment on this. She said we could wait until the article comes out and provide comment after that as well. Can we address her second question? Deadline is early next week, but I think there's flexibility if needed.

--Fatima, please loop in folks in SEMD who need to see/address this inquiry. I'm looping in Marie as well so ORC is aware and can review the responses once a draft is available.

Thank you!

Soledad Calvino
Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9
calvino.maria@epa.gov
Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Xia, Rosanna <Rosanna.Xia@latimes.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 12:13 PM
To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>
Subject: LA Times follow up questions

Hi Soledad,

Nice to meet you by phone! Thank you for taking the time to check with the Montrose superfund team on these questions:

- **Here is the UC Santa Barbara study on the barrels and deep ocean dumping:**
<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/acs.est.8b05859?rand=0vxkxul6>
 - o **Would the EPA like to comment on this study? Are these barrels a concern? What should be done with this new information that confirms something that could not be proven with first-hand evidence back in the 1980s/1990s?**
- **And does the team know what happened to Montrose as a company? Does it still exist, has it been absorbed into a bigger company, etc? How would you describe Montrose as an entity today? (I understand there is still some ongoing litigation with Montrose in the courts)**

In terms of deadline, could we possibly touch base by Monday or Tuesday next week?

Thank you,
Rosanna

--
Rosanna Xia
Los Angeles Times
Staff Writer | Metro
(213) 237-5132